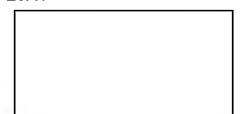
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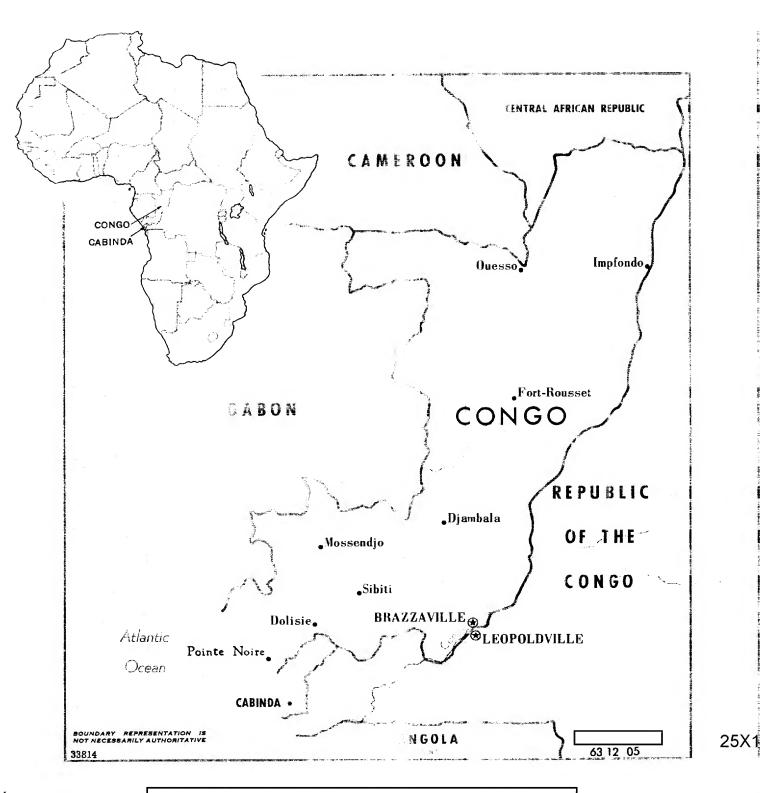
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DAILY BRIEF

Congo (Brazzaville): The political situation in Brazzaville remains confused and highly unstable as the provisional government prepares for a constitutional referendum and elections.

Both the new constitution and the candidates for the national legislature, who run unopposed, will probably be strongly endorsed by the voters on 8 December.

The superior prestige of moderate provisional government leader Massamba-Debat may secure his election to the presidency when an electoral college fills that office on 19 December. His election, however, is not certain, and it is unclear what power the president will actually be able to wield.

A number of leftist unionists and youth leaders are among the 55 legislative candidates. Some of these leftists may get important ministerial posts when the cabinet is formed late this month. They probably will press the new government to adopt a more receptive attitude toward the Soviet bloc and may call for the early establishment of diplomatic relations with the USSR.

The leftists may also seek to exploit the tense situation which has recently developed regarding neighboring Cabinda, where Portuguese police pursuing nationalist insurgents have crossed the border into the Congo on several recent occasions. There have been clashes between Portuguese and Congo army

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troops.

Brazil: Confidants of President Goulart continue to express deep pessimism over his prospects for solving Brazil's worsening political and economic problems.

General Albino Silva, former chief military adviser to Goulart, stated privately to US Ambassador Gordon that the present situation is deteriorating so rapidly that any serious incident would precipitate a crisis, and possibly prolonged hostilities among political factions. Silva, who is of moderate leftist political orientation, now heads the government oil monopoly. He emphasized that Goulart's physical and psychological exhaustion is contributing to his ineffectiveness.)

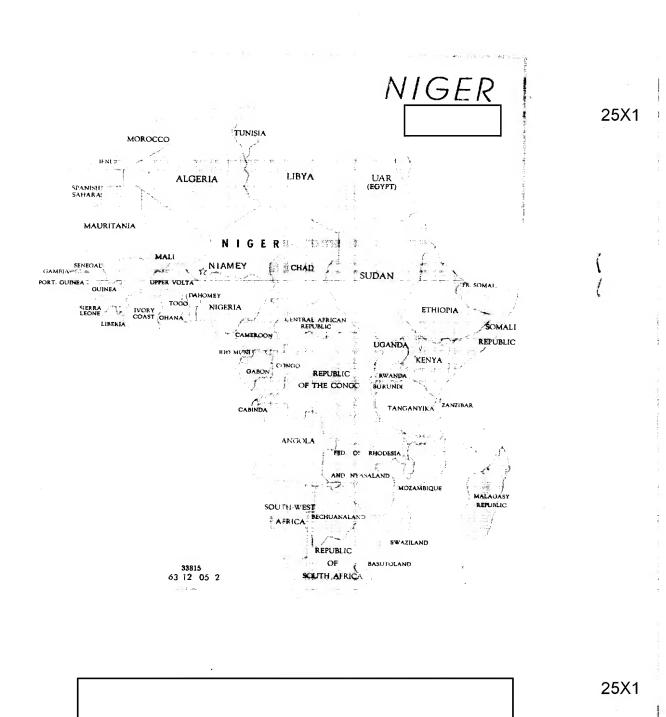
This pessimism was also evident in remarks made to the ambassador by industrialist Jorge Serpa, a moderate who appears to be exerting a strong influence on Goulart. In Serpa's opinion, Goulart is becoming increasingly isolated and now believes that the left, as well as the center and right, mistrust him. Serpa echoed the speculation, which is tending to become widespread, that another cabinet shuffle is in the offing.)

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Niger: Niger President Diori's conservative regime has been shaken by the successful defiance of its authority by the commanding officer of a key army company. After ordering the officer's removal, presumably because he had agitated for certain benefits for the army, Diori was forced to back down when the officer and his men mutinied. An agreement reportedly has been worked out by intermediaries, but the army unit remains in camp near the capital, and the intentions of its commander are unclear.

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The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

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The Secretary of Defense

The Deputy Secretary of Defense

The Secretary of the Army

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The Secretary of the Air Force

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